

LITERARY NOTES.

A "Birthday Book of American Poets," edited by Anna L. Hayward, is published by James R. Osgood & Co. There is a blank page to every page of poems, and the selections are made in good taste.

A book of Sunday reading for the young, prepared by Dr. Macaulay and published by A. D. F. Randolph & Co., is called "All True," and contains records of adventure by sea and land, accounts of missionary enterprises and descriptions of the wonders of nature.

The chair of Modern French Literature at the College of France is vacant. If M. Assalant is elected by the professors to succeed M. Paul Albert he will receive about \$1,200 a year for delivering two lectures a week for a part of the year.

Mrs. Martha J. Lamb has completed her "History of the City of New-York," on which she has been engaged for the greater part of fourteen years. The first volume was published a year ago and the last pages of the second volume, which A. S. Barnes & Co. have been issuing in monthly parts, will appear during the present month.

A monument to Goethe is being erected in Carlsbad, the famous watering-place of Bohemia. The native Czechs despite German literature almost as much as they do the rule of German Austria. But in Carlsbad the conquering race and luxury have effaced native prejudice, and the park in which the monument will stand has long been called the Goethe Meadow.

Mr. Sturz writes to the Paris *Appel*, says *The London Times*, making merry over the name of Aix-les-Bains being given in "Eadmyne" to an exiled Englishman who is expected to admire. He suggests that Lord Beaconsfield forgot who was Nero's mother, but he himself seems to forget that Nero's grandmother was also an Agrippina, and was buried by the Romans.

The Berlin police have been ransacking the bookstores of the German capital and seizing every volume of the poet Home, containing his "Zeitgeist des Gedichts." The raid is probably aimed at the poet's "Schloss Legende," which scolds Prussian Kings and deems unluky with Frederick William IV., though this particular monarch did not think it worth while to popularize the poem by attempting to suppress it.

The eastern old Frederick William I. disdained the tutors of Frederick the Great that the Crown prince must not be taught the lingo the Greeks and Romans spoke their fraction of sense and nonsense in. "I have heard judges say," he declares, "that they were inferior in real worth and glist to German home-grown we have had, if the certificates parents could have deserved it. At any rate they are dead, buried there, these 2,000 years, and well out of our way; and there is nonsense enough of our own left to keep sweeping into corners." Of history he declared that the Prince should be taught ancient history only slightly, but the history of the last 150 years to the exact pitch.

Admirers of the great works and sturdy character of Dr. Livingstone, and the world is full of them, will not turn the pages of Dr. William G. Blaikie's "Personal Life of David Livingstone" (Harper & Brothers) with unmixed delight. It some overzealous churchmen were once inclined to view with distrust the signs of a missionary who turned explorer, it would occur to few persons in this day that Dr. Livingstone's life as a man and a Christian needed any apology. The evident purpose of this volume is to dispel ignorance or doubt as to the strength of his afflictions, the depth and purity of his devotion or the intensity of his aspirations as a Christian missionary. The author has had access to unpublished journals and much important correspondence, but the too few extracts from his letters seem to bear most upon his Christian sentiments, and his form of expressing piety in words. These are good, but one would like more extracts throwing light on the worldly side of his character, so far as he had a worldly side. Dr. Blaikie's purpose is apparent, in his keeping in view "the difference between merely worldly enterprizes and missionary undertakings for the good of the world," and his allusion to some of the extracts as "of profound interest as indicating an important transition from the ideas of a mere missionary labor to those of a missionary general or statesman." Dr. Blaikie has had the assistance in the way of furnishing materials, from members of the explorer's family, and the ill-advised wishes of fond relatives are occasionally felt to the detriment of the book—most notably in the publication of four stanzas written by the explorer's wife as a greeting on his return from Africa. They reveal the loving wife; but as poetry it is such as one might print if one's enemy had written it.

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